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FORM DS 322(OCR)

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SECRET

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EA/LC:EFRICHARDS:DTM  
7/19/72 EXT 23133  
EA/LC:LMRIVES

INR/REA:FNBURNET {INFO}

|                                                                                                 |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR                                                                    |                     |
| REVIEWED BY <u>Ambley</u>                                                                       | DATE <u>10/9/80</u> |
| REASON FOR RECLASSIFICATION                                                                     | DATE                |
| TO A/CDC                                                                                        | REASON(S)           |
| ENDORSE: EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>                                             |                     |
| DECLASSIFIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                     |
| RELEASE DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>                                                         |                     |
| PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS                                                                            |                     |

131172

ROUTINE

PHNOM PENH

ROUTINE

RUHHHQA/CINCPAC, RHMFTA/OICC THAILAND

LIMDIS

SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON LON NOL GOVERNMENT

LMR LMR  
EFR 542  
FNB 542

1. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS ON {1} THE LEGITIMACY AND STABILITY OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND {2} ITS CAPACITY TO GOVERN EFFECTIVELY. ASSESSMENT SHOULD ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC ATTITUDES OF THE MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE POPULATION SUCH AS FANK, ELITE GROUPS IN PHNOM PENH AND OTHERS WHICH YOU BELIEVE TO BE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE.

2. WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE EFFECT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM, THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND RECENT MANEUVERING IN PREPARATION FOR LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS ON ATTITUDES TOWARD LON NOL AND THE LEGITIMACY OF HIS RULE. WAR WEARINESS AND THE IMPACT OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS SHOULD ALSO BE ASSESSED.

3. ADDITIONALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EVALUATION OF THE CAPACITY OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT TO EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THOSE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE VITAL TO THE WAR EFFORT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN YOUR EVALUATION OF THE CURRENT CABINET, IMPLICATIONS POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE GENERAL STAFF AND APPARENT RELUCTANCE OF RELATIVELY CAPABLE GOVERNMENTAL FIGURES IN CABINETS PRIOR TO MARCH 1972 (ELGL###E.G. SIRIK

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# OUTGOING TELEGRAM

Continuation Sheet

SECRET

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FORM DS 322A(OCR)

SECRET

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MATAK, IN TAM, SOK CHHONG} TO PARTICIPATE IN CURRENT GOV-  
ERNMENT.

4. FINALLY, REQUEST YOUR VIEWS CONCERNING SHORT TERM  
{NEXT SIX MONTHS} PROSPECTS FOR LON NOL GOVERNMENT, BOTH  
IN TERMS OF STABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS. 44

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